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Brian Sandoval
Governor

James Dzurenda
Director

State of Nevada
Department of Corrections
RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date and Time: August 17, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Laxalt Building
2nd Floor Chambers
401 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Video Conference: Grant Sawyer State Office
Building, Suite 1400
555 East Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

- I. Call to order, confirmation of posting, roll call, and Pledge of Allegiance
Director Dzurenda called the meeting to order August 17th, 1:00 PM

Roll Call was performed to introduce Task Force Members:

James Dzurenda – Director NDOC, Co-Chair of Re-Entry Task Force

John Collins – NDOC, Re-Entry Administrator

David Helgerman Capt. of Parole and Probations, Dept. of Public Safety

Chris Nelson proxy for Don Soderberg, Dept. of Employment Training and Rehabilitation

Richard Whitley Dept. of Health and Human Services

Terry Hubert, Ridge House University of Nevada Reno Dept. of Criminal Justice

John Ponder, Founder and CEO of Hope for Prisoners

Jim Wright Director of Department of Public Safety Co-Chair of Re-Entry Task Force

Kathleen Dussalt, Deputy Director Department of Veterans Services

Director Dzurenda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. First Public Comment Session

Barbara Hunt – U. S Probation, stated she will be sending the Re-Entry Task Force information on Employment Specialist Training that will be happening in Las Vegas Sept 27 – 28, 2016

Also, in January they will start Project Home again. She will send the Task Force all the information on that as well.

- III. **Possible action** for Nomination of Re-Entry Task Force Co-Chairs.

Jim Wright was already nominated as Co-Chair and Director Dzurenda would like to nominate himself as Co-Chair as a representative for Nevada DOC.

Jim Wright, questions the need to do the nomination. Item two of the Executive Order, it is spelled out that both Directors are to serve as the Co-Chairs.
No Action was taken due to the Executive Order.

IV. Introduction of Task Force members – Director Dzurenda

Director Dzurenda stated that the Introduced of The Re-Entry Task Force members was part of the Roll Call.

V. (Discussion) Why there is a need to improve Prison to Community Re-Entry in Nevada – Director Dzurenda

In Nevada Department of Corrections, currently 80% of prisoners are serving less than a 20 year sentence. If there were no more arrest in the State of Nevada, there would be at least 1200 offenders released into the community over the next 18 years.

For these offenders going back into the community, it is all of our duties, as representatives for the state, to do the best we can, and give these offenders the tools and ability to succeed once they get released into the community.

We want to reduce victimization in community by making these offenders released more successful. The only way to accomplish this large of a task and make it possible, is we need to have cooperation between multiple agencies. We need to make sure we are consistent and have continuity of programing, care, and tools for the offenders once they are released. The only way to do this is we need to have these tools and procedures set up before these offenders leave prisons doors.

Director Dzurenda is trying to solicit organizations within our own Department of Corrections, and stated “the only way to tackle this, is by starting the process for re-entry on day one when the offender enters the department.

He also stated, that we will need the help from all different agencies, and these agencies can help by providing the tools needed weather it is services, volunteers or programs, or duplicating services because of large number of inmates.

Today there are at least thirteen thousand five hundred offenders within the Department of Corrections and the sheriffs and jail systems in this state are overwhelmed at the number of intakes they have and what to do with them. We will eventually see the majority of these offenders entered into our department.

So, we would also need our jail systems that are in our community to be a part of how we can affect successful re-entry as the offenders get into the jails.

We can also do better research around the country on their programs to find out what works and use their best practices known to reduce recidivism. We want to use what programs are actually working.

We do have programs currently in the Department of Corrections that are being monitoring that are a feel good programs, but actually has no data or statistics that it reduces crime or victimization when the offenders are released. What the Director would like to do is to eliminate or reduce time spent on programs within the agencies that are not successful or have not proven to reduce recidivism, so that we can use the funding and staff and increase it on the programs that will actually work.

This is going to take a huge cooperation between all agencies weather its, Medical, Mental Health, Veterans Affairs and Community Services. All these programs in networks and other agencies will play the biggest factor in trying to make the best success for each offender that enters into our system.

This is why it is so important that the Re-Entry Task Force takes it seriously and really look at the roots of how we can improve and do the best we can in getting these best practices from around the country and incorporating them into our systems.

Budgeting time will become a factor with Legislation coming up in January, but, we have to find out other ways to make this work with the cooperation of other agencies. We cannot sit back and say we do not have the staffing or funding, we really have to change our minds and say, “how can we go above and beyond and make this program work within the agencies” and “How do we carry this to the community? How can Corrections provide assistance to Parole and Probation? How can Parole and Probation provide assistance to Corrections? How do we communicate with Health and Community services so that they know the offenders we are releasing to the community, and the services they are going to need to be successful?

This is the whole back bone of the Re-Entry Task Force.

The next piece of the Re-Entry Task Force is how we can work together and use these grants that are coming out, such as the Second Chance Grant that will affect Re-Entry and be a big plus for our state and citizens.

We will have a safer community; see a reduction in crime, a reduction in arrest which means a reduction in our prison terms and prison offenders.

Once we see the reduction of prison offenders, we can re-focus our savings by reducing some of our areas in the prisons, and then we can regenerate those funds to be able to refocus on better programing for the community. So, it is reinvesting our savings based on the reduction of crime. That is our goal and purpose of long term effects of the Re-Entry Task Force planning.

VI. Role of Re-Entry Task Force – Co-Chairs

Discussion

Comment and recommendation from Co-Chair Jim Wright

He agrees this whole process needs to start as the offender walks through the gate and continue through the end.

He also asked the question, what are we going to call these individuals? Some of the last planning meetings, Mr. Collins came back from Washington and they used the official title is “returning citizens” another title used is “Justice Systems Participants”

Recommends the Task Force come up with the official title for these individuals.

Comment and recommendation from Katherine Dussault – Nevada Department of Veterans Services

In regards to Incarcerated Veterans, it’s been shown that wrap around services and programing from the start of incarceration has benefits. In fact statistics from the Veterans Treatment Court that says, “If you provide behavioral type programs and getting to the root cause of issues for committing crimes, the recidivisms rate reduces down from sixty percent to six percent”.

In the case of Veterans there are laws on the books that state regardless of the discharge, weather honorable or other than honorable, they are due certain programs and services prior to and throughout their incarceration. The need and business case for providing reentry services are similar for veterans and non-veterans.

Comment and recommendations from John Ponder – Founder and CEO for Hope for Prisoners

He recommends that the task force puts a strong emphasis on wrap around services not only at the start of incarceration but also, continue on for a period of time after release to help them navigate through the different challenges they are going to face during the re integration process.

VII. Discuss the Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan; Implementation of Program Grant – Veronica Dahir, University of Nevada Reno

Discussion

Going into the second phase of the Grant

Veronica Dahir, who is involved in the planning grant, working on proposal, and created a Planning and Implementation guide model, that talks about all the goals and where we are going.

Requirements of the grant:

1. Risk and need driven case planning and resource allocation
2. The delivery of quality programing, to the targeting criminal genic needs
3. Effective supervision practices

There are 5 goals; she did not give at this time.

Will be able to use Red Cap Database

1st piece of the grant gave the State Of Nevada, eight thousand dollars for set up and programing

2nd piece of the grant offers the community piece of one million dollars for the grant for the next three years.

She stated “We will need to show sustainability, and that we will needs to continue on past the grant period and still watch the recidivism rate for five years.

The definition of standard recidivism rate:

It is where the offender is sentenced and re-entry back into the Nevada Department of Corrections within three years.

Follow outside of Nevada if we can, even though the grant does not require.

Target Group: Property offenders with history of substance abuse.

Target medium to high risk offenders in terms of Mental Health

VIII. (Discussion and Action) Discuss the Task Force Subcommittees and their roles

Discussion

Director Dzurenda stated what he would like to see in the subcommittee:

First Sub Committee on Initial entry

What are we looking at for programs?

What are we looking at for targeting of the inmates that are first entering in the Department of Corrections?

What do we need for them, weather it is initial assignment for Medicaid applications or offender accountability plan which will spell out the entire duration of the offender, such as a booklet that will spell out the services and programs the offender will need. What programs they need and how to get there

Second Sub Committee on Discharge planning.

Are we doing our discharge planning appropriately? Are we doing it in enough time in advance? Do we have a check list where we have told the offenders what they need to do for success? Is there anything we missed? Are there any new best practices?

Third Sub Committee Once an offender is released, what are we looking at for wrap around services? What do we need more of? What tools do we have as multiple agencies to provide for offenders once they are discharged?

Jim Wright agreed on the suggested sub committees.

(Action)

Director Dzurenda made a motion to have John Collins as the chair person for the subcommittees.

Jim Wright seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, all members were in favor. There were no objections. 10-0-0

Deputy Director Tristan commented on the strategic plan that he was advised from the previous sub committees that the five committees were already formed, and that they were:

Legislation

Family unit

Justice

Parole

And an evaluation sub committee

(Action)

John Collins stated “that is correct”, and moved to adopt those five committees already in place. “We already know the goals of those committees, and they all integrate into the strategic plan”.

Director Dzurenda seconded the moved and wanted John as co-chair of the five sub committees, to look for volunteers to be on each of the committees and come up with an agenda so that the Re-Entry Task Force will know what direction they are going with the five year strategic plan.

The motion passed unanimously, all members were in favor. There were no objections. 10-0-0

IX. (Action) Scheduling of next meeting

Director Dzurenda moved to have the next meeting on Wednesday, November 16th at 1:00 P.M.

The motion passed unanimously, all members were in favor. There were no objections. 10-0-0

X. Second Public Comment Session

Discussion

Mr. Perez, the Re-Entry affairs coordinator for Herlong Federal Prison wanted to offer his services. He stated that they already have in place what the Re-Entry Task Force is working on and offered to give an example of the checklist that inmates receive upon entry into the prison. Director Dzurenda thanked Mr. Perez for the copy of their Re-Entry book.

Barbara Hunt from U.S Probation suggested a recommendation to possibly include the Department of Motor Vehicles, Director and Deputy Director, to help with identification for individuals that are being released.

She also suggested one other resource: The National Institute of Corrections, where the state agencies can apply for grants to train their employees. She stated she will e-mail the information to Director Dzurenda.

XI. Adjournment

Director Dzurenda asked if anyone wanted to motion for adjournment.

Motioned by (inaudible)

Motion was second by Richard Whitley.
Meeting was Adjourned.

Note: Any agenda item may be taken out-of-order; items may be combined for consideration by the public body; and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. The Task Force, within its discretion, may allow for public comment on individual agenda items. Public Comment may be limited to three minutes per speaker. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments for the record.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for attendees with disabilities. Please notify John Collins at [\(775\) 250-5792](tel:7752505792).

NOTICES FOR THIS MEETING HAVE BEEN POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 241 AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

The Laxalt Building, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, 89701

The Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 5200, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101

The State of Nevada Website (www.notice.nv.gov)

The Department of Corrections Website (www.doc.nv.gov)

The Department of Public Safety Website (www.dps.nv.gov)